

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments**

*September 13, 2002*

*Dear Mr. Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Interior, and Transportation; International Assistance Programs; and the National Capital Planning Commission.

In total, these amendments would not affect the budgetary resources proposed in my FY 2003 Budget.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 17. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**Remarks Announcing the Teaching American History and Civic Education Initiatives**

*September 17, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Welcome to the Rose Garden. Thanks for getting up so early.

I do want to appreciate David McCullough. It's an honor to be introduced by David McCullough. I appreciate his contribution to our Nation. He's made history come alive for millions of Americans. He's encouraged the teaching of history in our classrooms. He's made a lasting contribution to our Nation, and we're grateful for that contribution.

It is fitting that on the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, the three branches of our Government are represented here.

Here in America, we see a broad renewal of American patriotism. And this is something to give thanks for; it really is. And it's something we must build on. To properly un-

derstand and love our country, we must know our country's history.

Today I am announcing several initiatives that will improve students' knowledge of American history, increase their civic involvement, and deepen their love for our great country.

I appreciate so very much Lynne Cheney, her—well, the fact she married a great Vice President, for starters. *[Laughter]* But she loves history. She has written books to encourage our children to understand history. Today she's hosting a celebration of the 215th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution at the Vice President's house—she kindly invited Laura to go.

I appreciate Justice Anthony Kennedy for coming. Not only is he a great Supreme Court Justice, he cares about the community in which he lives. He's worked with the American Bar Association on what they call a Dialogue on Freedom, an initiative to foster discussions in our Nation's classrooms about American civic values. Thank you, Justice Kennedy, for that. *[Applause]* Delayed applause is better than no applause. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate so very much our Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Rod is a—he's a straightforward fellow who cares deeply about our children. When we say no child should be left behind, he means it. He's doing a great job. Mr. Secretary, thank you for coming.

I do want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I'm especially pleased that Senator Kennedy and Senator Gregg from the Senate have come. These two strange bedfellows worked together to pass one of the most comprehensive education reform plans in our Nation's history. They care deeply about our country. I'm honored that you two are here.

And also two fine Members from the House of Representatives, Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner and Congressman Tim Roemer, we're honored that you're here. Thank you for coming. And thank you for your deep concern about our country and its future.

I thank Bob Cole for being here, who's the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. I thank John Carlin, who's the national Archivist, and Cathy Gorn,